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March 5, 2004

Dear Client:

As you know, I rarely send out anything to you unless it is of utmost importance; this is one of those times.

While I am not preparing tax returns, I am teaching taxation to my students at St. John's University. Over the years, I have devoted my research efforts at St. John's towards finding a better tax system.

Knowing of my research interest, Congressman Vito Fossella engaged my help in advancing a Bill (H.R.3215) to reform the Internal Revenue Code and he has asked me to take an active role.

Enclosed is a letter he has asked me to send to my friends and clients informing you of this congressional effort to make all of our lives simpler. I am hoping to be a part of the commission on tax reform and I just thought you should know of this.

Thank you for your support and if you have any comments or suggestions, please send them directly to me or to Congressman Fossella's office.

Thank you.

  
Patrick R. Colabella

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March 2004

Dear Friend:

As you prepare your taxes in advance of April 15, you are probably once again reminded of the complexity and inefficiency of the United States tax code. Today, the code, its regulations and related material span 54,846 pages in more than 25 volumes, making it nearly 319 times more wordy than the U.S. Constitution.

In an effort to make the code fairer, simpler and more efficient, I recently cosponsored legislation to create a bipartisan Congressional Commission that would be charged with drafting a new tax code. It was my honor to join with Pat Colabella, several certified public accountants and residents of Brooklyn in late February to unveil the measure.

Indeed, Pat found the idea so intriguing that he thought it would be beneficial for me to share information with you about the bill and how it would benefit you and your family.

By way of background, the *Tax Reform Action Commission Act* (H.R. 3215) would authorize the Congress to create a 15-member Commission to study the problems of the United States tax code and recommend a brand new system to Congress within two years. The Commission would be charged with developing a new tax code that is:

- Simple, transparent and efficient
- Fair and equitable to all Americans
- Neutral between activities and between current consumption and future consumption

The Commission's members would be appointed by the President (3 appointments), the Senate Majority Leader (4 appointments), the Senate Minority Leader (2 appointments), the Speaker of the House (4 appointments) and the House Minority Leader (2 appointments). The Commission would conduct its research and outreach through hearings, agency information requests and consulting with both public and private entities.

The legislation, which was introduced by Rep. Jim DeMint (SC-4) and is cosponsored by 77 Members of Congress, also requires the Commission to submit its recommendations within two years and includes language to ensure prompt consideration in both the House and Senate.

I believe that hard-working Americans like you should not be forced to spend 6.42 billion hours on tax forms and record-keeping when you could otherwise devote that time to what's really important – like spending time with your family and friends. A tax code that discourages Americans from saving, investing and planning for their future, discriminates against married people and hurts those who are struggling to make ends meet is more than unfair – it hinders economic growth and stifles job creation.

By bringing together experts in their field and empowering them to design a new tax code that is simple, fair and efficient, we will reward hard work and also respect the right of the American people to keep more of the money they earn. That is a winning recipe for a stronger and more prosperous America.

At present, the bill is before the Ways and Means Committee. I am continuing to work with my colleagues in the House to secure a hearing on the legislation and, soon after, a vote on the measure. I will keep you updated on the progress of the legislation in the months ahead.

If you have any questions about the Tax Reform Action Commission, or if I can be of assistance to you on another matter, please feel free to call me at (718) 630-5277. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Vito Fossella", is centered below the word "Sincerely,".

Vito J. Fossella  
Member of Congress